

BUDGET ADVISORY MEETING
APRIL 18, 2005

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 18, 2005

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. Present at the meeting were Committee Chair, Dr. Kerry Waldee, Vice-Chair Dr. Robert Preziosi, Secretary Scott Spages, and Committee Member Stephanie Bell.

Also present from the Town was Finance Director Bill Underwood.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 7, 2005 and March 14, 2005

Mr. Spages made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bell, to approve the February 7, 2005 Minutes.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion passed 4-0)

Mr. Spages made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bell, to approve the March 14, 2005 Minutes.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion passed 4-0)

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Departmental Liaison Report

Dr. Waldee indicated he would email Development Services and copy the Committee with an update on the report.

Ms. Bell advised she had spoken with her department contact, Parks and Recreation Director, Dennis Andresky, who advised her that his department's budget was status quo, and that the only cost increase anticipated would be in youth programs, based on anticipated increase in usage. She also advised that Mr. Andresky spoke of the possible need for an administrative employee to specifically handle grant functions and correspondence, as his department was spread very thin.

Mr. Preziosi advised that some issues that needed to be wrapped up went back three-four years. The Committee discussed the demands being handled by Parks and Recreation staff. Mr. Spages felt a full-time employee would be the best use of the Town's money and suggested further discussion and analysis with Parks and Recreation staff on this issue. He also felt it might be more cost-effective to recommend cutting back on lobbyists in favor of hiring another employee. Mr. Preziosi stated these were two different issues.

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Ms. Bell advised that Mr. Andresky had announced a Council Workshop for Parks and Recreation department on April 28, 2005.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Progress Report on Open Space Referendum

Mr. Underwood advised that Council agreed to put this referendum in place. Mr. Spages indicated he had been called to participate in the telephone survey on the referendum, which he felt was a "push poll" designed to elicit certain responses from him to certain questions. He felt copies of questions from the poll should be provided to the Committee.

Mr. Spages made a motion, seconded by Dr. Preziosi, to obtain a copy of the poll for the Committee. In a voice vote, all voted in favor.

(Motion carried 4-0)

Mr. Spages and Dr. Waldee both voiced their concern about repayment of past bonds, in light of the proposed bond for \$25 million for open space trails. Both felt that while the Committee was not against open space, the Town's budget had to be considered more seriously.

5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Dr. Waldee asked for updates on Town Hall Expansion and Downtown Davie project. Mr. Underwood reviewed the Committee's earlier discussions on these items. Mr. Underwood indicated that a firm had not been hired to continue with a projection of growth study, but instead, one was hired to do the modeling portion of the PMG. Mr. Underwood also advised that there was a contract on his desk for the acquisition of 3 floors for Downtown Davie. Dr. Preziosi felt spending non-recurring funds to balance the budget was incomprehensible. He also felt there was a lack of appreciation for the non-political nature of the Committee's decisions.

Mr. Spages also felt that the Committee offered a wide variety of recommendations on issues that were not acted upon by the Town. He felt the Committee should focus on 3 or 4 action items it felt strongly about, and should present these to the Town Council periodically as a Committee.

Dr. Waldee asked about the Town's action regarding hiring a permanent Town Administrator. Mr. Underwood advised the Town had considered engaging the Range Riders, an organization of retired city managers, to help the Town. However, he stated that recent discussions indicated this decision might be changed at the upcoming Town Council meeting.

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Regarding Downtown Davie, Dr. Waldee asked about the next stage in the contract process. Mr. Underwood advised that two appraisals were needed before the contract was executed. Dr. Waldee asked if there was still money in the capital budget for Town Hall expansion. Mr. Underwood responded no and advised that the Town would use building development and engineering permitting fees for this purpose.

Dr. Waldee requested that the Committee be kept updated on this project.

Dr. Waldee asked for an update on the capital budget. Mr. Underwood advised he was trying to meet with Interim Town Administrator Kovanes to discuss the budget. He advised that he would provide the Capital Budget documents for the Committee as early as possible.

6. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss and no objections, Mr. Spages made a motion, seconded by Dr. Preziosi, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 4-0)

Date approved

Chair/Committee Member